

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. - 70. (Canceled)

71. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a plurality of plication staples suitable for application to a mitral valve annulus;

a suture or a band of material adapted to be stapled to the mitral valve annulus at fixed positions along the suture or band of material to plicate mitral valve annulus tissue and thereby reduce the length of the mitral valve annulus;

wherein the staples and suture or band of material are adapted to be delivered to the mitral valve annulus of a heart while the heart is beating;

a port including

a housing having a first end, a second end, and a lumen therethrough, the housing configured for insertion through a chamber wall of a heart chamber so that the first end is exterior of the chamber wall and the second end is interior of the chamber wall;

at least one valve disposed in the housing to open and close the lumen; and

an inlet connected to the housing, the inlet having an inlet passage in fluid communication with the lumen of the housing; and

a fluid transport device having one end that attaches to the inlet of the port, another end that attaches to a fluid source is configured to insert into an artery of the patient to permit passage of arterial blood through the fluid channel, and a fluid channel therebetween to pass a fluid from the fluid source to the inlet, whereby the fluid passes from the inlet through the inlet passage and through the lumen into the heart chamber to maintain an intra-chamber pressure at a desired level.

72. - 75. (Canceled)